

Message Text

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21

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4363

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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BEIRUT PLS PASS BAGHDAD (U.S. INTEREST SECTION)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, EGEN, YO IZ

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV-IRAQ SIGN AIR AGREEMENT

REF : BELGRADE 3127, BELGRADE 3206

1. TANJUG, OCT 3, CARRIES ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONCLUSION YUGOSLAV-IRAQI SCHEDULED AIR AGREEMENT. YAT PLANS INITIATE ONECE WEEKLY SERVICE TO BAGHDAD BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1, WHILE IRAQ REPORTEDLY WILL BEGIN ONCE WEEKLY SERVICE LATER IN YEAR. ACCORDING TANJUG, AGREEMENT MEETS NEEDS OF FREQUENT TRAVEL OF YUGOSLAV WORKERS TO IRAQ.

2. COMMENT: AIR AGREEMENT IS INTERESTING PRIMARILY BECAUSE IT EMPHASIZES CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT ECONOMIC COOPERATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AS WITNESSED BY TANJUG'S REFERENCE TO MEETING THE NEEDS OF YUGOSLAV WORKERS TRAVELING TO IRAQ. THE AUGUST MIXED COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTED POSSIBILITY OF YUGOSLAV FIRMS UNDERTAKING VERY LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN IRAQ OVER THE NEXT FIVE TO TEN YEARS. EARNINGS FROM THESE PROJECTS WILL INTER ALIA HELP PAY FOR YUGOSLAV OIL IMPORTS FROM IRAQ. IN

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1975 IRAQ REPORTEDLY SUPPLIED YUGOSLAVIA WITH 4.5 MILLION TONS

OF OIL ON CREDIT. IN THIS REGARD, WE WERE RECENTLY TOLD THAT
OPEC PRICE INCREASE DOES NOT HAVE AS MUCH DIRECT IMPACT ON
YUGOSLAVIA FOR 1976 BECAUSE OF LONG-TERM FIXED PRICE CONTRACT
WITH IRAQ FOR OIL (REFTELS).
SILBERMAN

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